Magistrates' Courts and other public institutions; but there was no facility for higher secondary education. The present school was started more than 25 years ago, and it was high time to raise the standard of the school to meet the demands of the growing population of the place. There were 26 Higher Grade Secondary Schools in the State, both Government and Aided. Of those, there were only two schools south of Trivandrum, and they were both at Nagercoil. Those two schools were always crowded and had to refuse admission to many, for want of accommodation. Even if the students got admission to the schools, the heavy boarding expenses and other disadvantages prevented many from going in for higher education. Thackala, as the head-quarters of the Padmanabhapuram Division, and owing to its central position and other advantages, was well suited for a Higher Grade Secondary School. He therefore requested that the Lower Grade Secondary School at Thackala should be raised to a Higher Grade Secondary School.

Dewan's reply.—Noted. The policy of the Government is against increasing the number of the Departmental *Higher* Grade Secondary Schools.

122. The conversion of the Lower Grade Secondary School at Neyyattinkara into a Higher Grade Secondary School.

Mr. Mathevan Kesavan (Member, Neyyattinkara taluk) said that it was needless to dwell on the importance of the town of Neyyattinkara. There was at present a Lower Grade Secondary School there, with classes up to Form III. The strength of the school was 152. The apparently small strength was due to the absence of facilities for higher education at Neyyattinkara itself. Many boys preferred to study in the H. G. E. School, for fear of having to go to other towns for higher education. He prayed that one additional class might first be opened in the L. G. S. School and the school gradually raised to a High School, if the results of the change justified it.

Dewan's reply.—Noted. The policy of the Government is against increasing the number of the Departmental *Higher* Grade Secondary Schools.

123. The need for opening an English School for Girls in the t own of Neyyattinkara

The Revd. Samuel Sumanam (Member, T. I. C., Neyyattinkara) said that the Neyyattinkara taluk was one of the largest taluks in the State in point of area and was also very thickly populated, having a population of 1,80,000 people. In such a big taluk, an English School for girls was very necessary, and he requested that one should be established in the town of Neyyattinkara. He further said that the school fees were prohibitive. In view of the backward condition of education in the taluk, he requested that the children—both boys and girls—of the taluk might be exempted from paying fees till they passed the School Final Examination; and if that was not practicable, a nominal fee should be charged for the boys alone as before.

Dewan's reply .—Noted.

124. The need for the establishment of A Lower Grade Secondary School at Adoor.

Mr. Philipose Alexander (Member, Kunnathur taluk) said that there was no English School, either Government or private, in the Kunnathur taluk. The Government had been spending large sums of money on account of education and agriculture in the other taluks; and it was a cause for special grievance that nothing had been done for education in the taluk. His prayer was not for a College or a High School in Adoor but for the lowest type of an English School. There were in the taluk so many as 20 Vernacular Schools. The Government had acquired a site near the Cutcherry and were putting up a building for the Higher Grade Elementary School. That building would be suitable for the proposed Secondary School; and the Higher Grade Elementary School could be located in the present buildings, which were in a good locality. If that proposal was not feasible, the English School might be established in the open space near the Taluk Cutcherry. If, however, the Government could

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not immediately establish an English School, he requested that at least one class should be started from the beginning of the next school-year. The people would gladly give a building free of rent for the new class.

Dewan's reply.—The Director of Public Instruction will be asked to submit proposals for starting a Lower Grade Secondary School at Adoor.

The Assembly adjourned at 5-20 P. M.

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